

HOWARD Kennedy, the Wycombe Wanderers midfielder, is likely to be out for the remainder of the season after snapping knee ligaments in the game against Barking last week.

Manager Ted Powell announced the shock news this week which means he will be without one of his most consistent performers in the club's bid for the Rothmans Isthmian League title.

Kennedy, who has enjoyed a fine season, was injured by a late tackle after 20 minutes of Saturday's game and was taken to East Ham hospital after the game. He then went to Farnham Park where Dr John Williams discovered severed knee ligaments.

The ligaments were stitched after an operation on Tuesday evening but Kennedy is still in

hospital and will be out of the game for about three months. It was a similar injury suffered by Wanderers forward Keith Searle three years ago. Searle made a successful return to the game.

This comes a a major blow to Wycombe's hopes especially with a tough home game against Tilbury coming up tomorrow (Saturday) at Loakes Park. Peter Cruse is also doubtful after taking a knock on the ankle in the Barking game. He was unable to train this week.

On the brighter side, goalkeeper Peter Spittle has recovered from flu and John Maskell should be available despite his injured finger. Bob Davies, who was married last week, should return to the left back spot while Gavin Fraser, if available, will come in into midfield for Kennedy. Dylan Evans and Tony Horseman will contest

the forward place should Cruse not play.

Tilbury, Division Two champions last year, have made steady progress this season and a string of fine results against the top clubs has put them in fourth position, one below the Blues. They are unbeaten in their last 10 outings but that includes six draws.

They, too, have injury problems. John Allen suffered a double leg fracture in last week's 1-0 Essex Senior Cup win at Chelmsford while Barry Walder recently underwent a cartilage operation. Mike Mitchell, the subject of a lot of attention from league clubs, has recently returned after injury.

Wanderers won 2-0 at Tilbury back in October with Ian Pearson scoring after 15 seconds. But having beaten Leatherhead and Enfield twice this season,